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Address 163 Chinton Que,	

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Mr. Dave Davis
President and General Manager
WABC-TV
7 Lincolnn Square

New York, New York 10023

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Address 250 Van Nortrand avenue		
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Address 47 Sheffield St	

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Print and Sign CHESTERFIELD POWELL. Chesteofield Rossell
Address 563 MONTGOMERY ST. 97-2, JERSEY CITY, N.J. 07303

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Address 565 Montgomeny Theef

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Address 57/ Wontgomery st apt	256	
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Print and Sign Thelma Wright	Shilma Wrolf
Address 503 Monta Process 5	STATE 2 11 07362

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Address 57/ MANGAMERY	

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WABC-TV
7 Lincolnn Square

New York, New York 10023

IMMEDIATELY RETURN LIKE IT IS TO ITS ORIGINAL HOUR FORMAT IN TIME FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

As a regular viewer and strong supporter of "Like It Is", I am outraged at the decision of WABC-TV to cut the format of this highly esteemed public service/news program to a half hour show in order to insert "Inside Stuff", a quasi sports, entertainment and sometimes situation comedy offering, in the space originally allotted for WABC-TV's lone Black public affairs program. I find the decision an insult to our community, offensive to our intelligence, and humiliating to the program's producer.

"Like It Is", with its multiple award winning producer and host Gil Noble, has served its viewers for over the last 34 years with timely and critical analysis of the political, economic and cultural issues that shape our lives and brings pride and self-esteem to our community. I find the decision to reduce the program is an attempt to diminish its capacity and continuity to provide thorough information within an hour, without having to resort to a new week-to-week serial context. The historic Kerner Commission called upon the media to provide greater representation of people of color in general and the Black community in particular by airing various issues and viewpoints that make up this country's ethnic diversity, "Like It Is" has offered a unique and most needed opportunity for people to examine current affairs through an authentic African-American perspective. To date it is the longest running African-American produced television program in the U.S. (which previously had given both WABC-TV and the ABC Network considerable praise in the Black community) that has produced the largest body of programs and documentaries in this country on the African experience in the U.S., Caribbean and even Africa itself.

Today, many of the gains that people of African ancestry have made in media during the past three decades are being systematically reversed. Racial diversity in media ownership and representation in the newsrooms is in decline. The fact that "Like It Is" is one of the only regularly scheduled Black programs produced at WABC-TV out of 168 hours of airtime a week, coupled with your station's decision to first try to eliminate the program and then in lieu of that slash the time format, reflects a dangerous, frightening and disturbing trend.

Again, I call upon you to return "Like It Is" to its original hour format. We are very much aware that Disney, an entertainment conglomerate, owns ABC and its news and public affairs department. While I will always support "Like It Is" and Gil Noble, I feel that if these reasonable requests are not granted, I will be forced to find other ways to express my displeasure via my network viewing habits and my purchasing power. I will encourage others to do the same. There are many ways in which my community can register its displeasure pertaining to what we feel is your insensitivity to the audience that "Like It Is" serves. And as Black History Month is fast approaching, and as "Like It Is" always does special programming to honor this month, it is even more urgent that you return the show to its original hour immediately. If this show is not returned to its one hour format in time for Black History month, I will without hesitation use the options mentioned above.

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The the Urgulart Signature 1284 EAST SECOND STREET
Address PLMINFIELD, N.J. 07062
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Date December 83, 2004

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